

Federal Facility Closure Council

Over the past decade, successful and unsuccessful efforts to realign or close military bases, redevelop industrial brownfields and restore Federal lands created an extensive repository of experience that offers valuable lessons for the Office of Site Closure. At present, site closure lessons learned within DOE is based on a very limited set of sites or facilities that have closed. These two circumstances combine to focus the Office of Site Closure's strategic outlook and its organizational vision so that the Office can learn from other public and private sector experience and evolve into a model for site closure.

The Office of Site Closure initiated the Federal Facility Closure Council (F2C2) concept to improve its closure processes and practices by understanding those that worked and did not work for other organizations. The overall objective of the F2C2 is to establish a network of existing agency organizations for exchanging information and lessons learned related to facility closure. Specific objectives include, but are not limited to:

- Sponsoring various forums (Internet, symposiums, etc.) for effective exchange of facility closure information on best practices and lessons learned.
- Sponsoring multi-agency benchmarking initiatives or other program analyses to identify agency best practices for facility closure.
- Developing consistent Federal policy for planning, budgeting and overseeing facility closure.
- Participating in facility closure education, training and information transfer for members and other interested parties.

Earlier this summer, a draft concept paper was provided to selected agency officials to gauge interest, accommodate other agency needs, and establish a working list of common agency goals and objectives. Additionally, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Closure James Fiore initiated a number of calls and face-to-face meetings with counterparts in key agencies to demonstrate the Office of Site Closure leadership is committed to making this initiative a success. Initial feedback on the Office of Site Closure's concept has highlighted the proposed forum does not currently exist, and other agencies believe they too can benefit from sharing closure problems and solutions.

Later this summer or early fall, it is expected that once appropriate agency points of contact are established a senior level steering committee will meet and refine the initial concept paper into a working charter. It is also expected that some initial cross-agency closure program analyses will be organized and implemented to quickly move the council into a results-oriented mode. It is hoped that the council will hold a Site Closure Symposium next fiscal year to broaden access to closure lessons learned, best practices and ongoing agency improvement initiatives. ■

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